

Fossil addiction

This text should help to describe and understand Fossil addiction (FS) as a new concept of art, and to recognize the addiction to treat it. The text complements a call by the artist group "Group Global 3000" for an exhibition of the same name in early 2020 in Berlin.

The focus of this text is on energy use from fossil fuels. The problem can also be extended to all natural resources such as untouched nature, air, animals, raw materials, rare earths....

It is in the healing process of Fossil addiction to be aware of the dependency that is usually repressed. Increasing environmental and climate awareness also raises awareness of dependencies and behaviors that damage the environment and the climate.

Definition with examples

Addiction is a dependency that the addict usually does not notice or denies, nicely talks (alcohol addiction ...)

Fossil addiction is a disease of individuals and society through abuse and dependence on fossil resources. (Based on <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Addiction>)

- Unauthorized use is a use not tolerated by society, e.g. Exceeding the speed limit by the car driver
- Dangerous use is a use with harmful consequences for the consumer and the environment, e.g. Rising sea levels in the future
- Dysfunctional use exists when mental or social demands are impaired, e.g. The belief of the car handlebars to the controllability at high speeds. The irrational discussion of the readers with news about speed limit on highways. "E-mobility is the methadone of motorists" (Harald Welzer)
- Harmful use has already caused harmful consequences, e.g. so-called heavy rain events.

Open questions

What is the Fossil addiction looking for, what is behind it, what is the actual need that wants to be satisfied and does not leave you alone?

When is it fossil addiction? When is driving, shopping, mobile phone use ... addiction?

Which groups are the "drug producers" like Exxon, the "pushers" like the car industry, the consumers? In the image "Avoid packaging" the unpacked shops and the "Zero Waste Initiatives" are the withdrawal assistants.

How do you recognize the fossil addiction? Where does she show herself?

How do we promote the personal and social insight into the fossil addiction? How does a withdrawal work?

What are pictures for the fossil addiction? - A question to the artists.

Where does the addiction take us? Into an intoxication of "having everything", being provided with everything, bathing in well-being - and having to bathe? As soon as the feeling of well-being subsides, withdrawal sets in: discomfort, frustration, boredom, loneliness, to be thrown on itself?

What would the world look like without the fossil addiction? Trist, Poor, regrettable? Or poor-hearted? Or more conscious, intense, thankful ...?

Keywords are "postal growth", "common good orientation"

A first sketch

FS has an ecological impact, has an economic side and, in social terms, a personal and political side.

Dependence on fossil energy: This is characterized in our industrialized world by an almost everlasting and ubiquitous availability. The abundance and unquestioned access has created multiple dependencies on energy use, which now threaten the environment and climate: the use of electricity by electrical appliances (escalators, elevators, internet searches, mobile phone use, powering up the electromobility ...) But also contain products "Gray" fossil energy: Aluminum, indeed almost every material we use, is based on seemingly unlimited available fossil energy: packaging, of course - as a small part of it - the plastic bags, furniture, clothing, means of transport, food (from artificial fertilizer until processing and transport). The use does not appear as a dependency, because the consciousness does not go so far as to question everything and the alternative is no longer conceivable (as when traveling with the sat nav).

Dependence on added benefit: In addition to the direct dependence on energy-using and energy-containing products that shape our public services, our wealth and abundance creates more and more interest in an added benefit: heavy cars, expensive houses, apartments, interiors, travel, fashion, elaborate food. Consumption, which continues to increase beyond the vital need: The added benefit serves the need for increase, for recognition and compensation for disappointments (dissatisfaction, boredom, frustration / bad mood, misfortune ..). This generates growing standards of consumption, (fossil) "fever addiction" and celebratory mood, supported by "energetic" utensils of all kinds, an expression of never satisfied - being.

People present or simulate wealth, genius, potency through energy and raw material consumption, waste. In Africa el. Staubsauer were useless status symbols in the de-energized huts.

Further examples

Comfort that opposes us humans, e.g. the use of escalators, instead of normal stairs, which can aggravate a lack of exercise.

Waste of things that are generated with energy use that are soon becoming defective, difficult or irreparable, "planned wear".

The "higher, faster, further" as a social discipline.

Holidays are only possible by flying with the plane. Flying: expanding yourself, escaping from everyday life

Overpowering, splashing with horsepower, turf: intoxication, potency ...

Ex and hopp of things, throwaway society

Badly insulated houses of the 50s and 60s

Artificial fertilizer as a drug for the soil

Using the machine, instead of possible manual work

The climate package of the Federal Government, which protects the lobby and the addicts instead of the scientific advice to come.

Using the e-scooter instead of walking, rice cooker instead of saucepan, electric nose hair trimmer, massage chair, wellness equipment, el. Windows. ...

With us a dependency on the everyday trinkets arose, which should create relief and imperceptible, mindlessly devouring energy and raw materials ("Zewa wipe and gone") - the awakening and omitting is hard!



Parking Garage, (C) Tom Albrecht